



4184-80-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program Announces the State Median Income Estimates for Federal Fiscal Year 2017

CFDA Number: 93.568

AGENCY: Office of Community Services, ACF, HHS

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Community Services (OCS), announces the State Median Income Estimates for a Four-Person Household for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2017 State Median Income Estimates for Use in the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for FFY 2017 (October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017).. OCS published the estimates on July 5, 2016 in LIHEAP Information Memorandum (IM) 2016-03 as “State Median Income Estimates for Optional Use in FFY 2016 and Mandatory Use in FFY 2017”. LIHEAP-IM-2016-03 is available at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/resource/liheap-im-2016-03-state-median-income->

estimates-for-optional-use-in-ffy-2016-and-mandatory-use-in-ffy-2017. OCS made the effective date of such estimates July 1, 2016.

DATES: These estimates become effective at any time between July 1, 2016 and the later of (1) October 1, 2016; or (2) the beginning of a grantee’s fiscal year.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peter Edelman, Program Analyst,
Office of Community Services, 330 C Street, SW, 5th Floor, Mail Room 5425,
Washington, DC 20201. Telephone: 202-401-5292; Email: peter.edelman@acf.hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice announces, for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), the estimated median income of four-person households in each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico for FFY 2017 (October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017). LIHEAP grantees that choose to base their income eligibility criteria on these state median income (SMI) estimates may adopt these estimates (up to 60 percent) on July 1, 2016 or on a later date as discussed in the “DATES” section. This enables grantees to implement this notice during the period between the heating and cooling seasons. However, by October 1, 2016, or the beginning of the grantee’s fiscal year, whichever is later, grantees must adjust their income eligibility criteria so that they are in accord with the FFY 2017 SMI.

Sixty percent of SMI for each LIHEAP grantee, as annually established by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, is one of the income criteria that LIHEAP grantees may use in determining a household's income eligibility for LIHEAP.

The SMI estimates in this notice are five-year estimates derived from the American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce (Census Bureau). The use of the five-year data to derive the SMI estimates represents a change from the past nine years, during which OCS used three-year data to derive such estimates. The reasons for this change are (1) the Census Bureau's cessation of the three-year data; and (2) the fact that the five-year data provides a more robust replacement option than the one-year data.

For additional information about the ACS state median income estimates, including the definition of income and the derivation of medians see

http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/SubjectDefinitions/2013_ACSSubjectDefinitions.pdf under "Income in the Past 12 Months." For additional information about using the ACS five-year estimates versus using the one-year estimates, see http://www.census.gov/acs/www/guidance_for_data_users/estimates/. For additional information about the ACS in general, see <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/> or contact the Census Bureau's Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division at (301) 763-3243. For additional information about the accuracy of the ACS SMI estimates, see http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/MultiyearACSAccuracyofData2013.pdf.

In the state-by-state listing of SMI and 60 percent of SMI for a four-person family for FFY 2017, LIHEAP grantees must regard “family” to be the equivalent of “household” with regard to setting their income eligibility criteria. This listing describes the method for adjusting SMI for households of different sizes, as specified in regulations applicable to LIHEAP (45 CFR 96.85(b)). These regulations were published in the *Federal Register* on March 3, 1988, (53 FR 6827) and amended on October 15, 1999 (64 FR 55858).

ESTIMATED STATE MEDIAN INCOME FOR FOUR-PERSON FAMILIES, BY STATE, FOR
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2017, FOR USE IN THE LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

States	Estimated state median income for four-person families ¹	60 percent of estimated state median income for four-person families ^{2 3}
Alabama.....	\$67,621	\$40,573
Alaska.....	95,967	57,580
Arizona.....	67,273	40,364
Arkansas.....	60,481	36,289
California.....	80,458	48,275
Colorado.....	87,928	52,757
Connecticut.....	108,592	65,155
Delaware.....	88,703	53,222
District of Columbia.....	98,640	59,184
Florida.....	67,643	40,586
Georgia.....	70,132	42,079
Hawaii.....	88,921	53,353
Idaho.....	64,234	38,540
Illinois.....	85,516	51,310
Indiana.....	73,397	44,038
Iowa.....	80,299	48,179
Kansas.....	77,760	46,656
Kentucky.....	70,084	42,050
Louisiana.....	73,263	43,958
Maine.....	78,749	47,249

Maryland.....	109,262	65,557
Massachusetts	108,978	65,387
Michigan.....	77,718	46,631
Minnesota	94,387	56,632
Mississippi.....	59,701	35,821
Missouri.....	74,162	44,497
Montana.....	71,453	42,872
Nebraska.....	78,773	47,264
Nevada.....	68,978	41,387
New Hampshire	100,496	60,298
New Jersey.....	109,113	65,468
New Mexico	61,783	37,070
New York	88,451	53,071
North Carolina	70,000	42,000
North Dakota	88,621	53,173
Ohio	78,166	46,900
Oklahoma	66,088	39,653
Oregon	72,518	43,511
Pennsylvania.....	85,036	51,022
Rhode Island.....	91,452	54,871
South Carolina.....	66,542	39,925
South Dakota	76,511	45,907
Tennessee	67,026	40,216
Texas	71,307	42,784
Utah	72,805	43,683
Vermont.....	84,421	50,653
Virginia.....	94,667	56,800
Washington.....	86,744	52,046
West Virginia.....	68,750	41,250
Wisconsin	83,893	50,336
Wyoming	81,632	48,979
Puerto Rico	29,598	17,759

¹ These figures were prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce (Census Bureau), from five-year estimates from the 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014 American Community Surveys (ACSs). These estimates, like those derived from any survey, are subject to two types of error: (1) Non-sampling Error, which consists of random errors that increase the variability of the data and non-random errors that consistently direct the data in a specific direction; and (2) Sampling Error, which consists of the error that arises from the use of probability sampling to create the sample.

² These figures were calculated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Services, Division of Energy Assistance by multiplying the estimated state median income for a four-person family for each state by 60 percent.

³ To adjust for different sizes of households for LIHEAP purposes, 45 CFR 96.85 calls for multiplying 60 percent of a state's estimated median income for a four-person family by the following percentages: 52 percent for a one-person household, 68 percent for a two-person household, 84 percent for a three-person household, 100 percent for a four-person household, 116 percent for a five-person household, and 132 percent for a six-person household. For each additional household member above six people, 45 CFR 96.85 calls for adding three percentage points to the percentage for a six-person household (132 percent) and multiplying the new percentage by 60 percent of the median income for a four-person family.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: LIHEAP was last authorized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Pub. L. 109-58, which was enacted on August 8, 2005. This authorization expired on September 30, 2007, and reauthorization remains pending. The formula used to derive the SMI is authorized by 42 USC § 8624 (b) (2) (B) (ii).

Mary M. Wayland

Senior Grants Policy Specialist

Division of Grants Policy

Office of Administration

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